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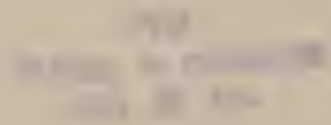
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REPORT  
OF  
THE COMMITTEE OF THE OVERSEERS  
OF  
HARVARD COLLEGE,  
APPOINTED TO VISIT  
THE MEDICAL SCHOOL  
IN 1849.

BOSTON:  
PRINTED BY JOHN WILSON, SCHOOL STREET.  
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IN BOARD OF OVERSEERS,

*February 1, 1849.*

*Voted,* That JAMES JACKSON, M.D. JOHN C. WARREN, M.D. AUGUSTUS A. GOULD, M.D. ROBERT W. HOOPER, M.D. and JOHN BACON, M.D. be a Committee to visit the Medical School, and to examine the Anatomical Museum.

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IN BOARD OF OVERSEERS,

*February 7, 1850.*

*Ordered,* That the Report of the Committee appointed to visit the Medical School, and to examine the Anatomical Museum, be printed.

Attest,

ALEXANDER YOUNG,

*Secretary.*

GIFT  
MARGARET W. CUSHING  
JAN. 26, 1938

## REPORT.

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THE Committee appointed by the Honorable and Reverend Overseers of the University in Cambridge to visit the Medical School, and to examine the Anatomical Museum, have attended to that duty, and report as follows: —

As this is the first instance in which a Special Committee has been appointed by the Overseers of the University to examine the state of the Medical School, it may not be improper to glance at the origin and history of this institution, before describing its present state.

It is well known that this School owed its origin to the late Dr. JOHN WARREN. He first gave private lectures on Anatomy in Boston, and his success was such as to call the attention of the College Government to the subject.

Just before the termination of the American Revolution, three medical professors were appointed; and they commenced their lectures in the year 1783.

Dr. Warren was Professor of Anatomy and Surgery; Dr. AARON DEXTER was Professor of Materia Medica and Chemistry; and Dr. BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE was Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic.

This was the first School established in our College for professional education. The gentlemen before mentioned



were the only teachers in this School for more than twenty years.

Until 1810, the lectures were delivered in Cambridge. They were attended by medical students, and by such of the Senior Sophisters as were willing to pay a small fee for the privilege. The lectures were given annually, in the autumn, and the length of the term was six weeks. The number of students attending these lectures seldom exceeded twenty.

If this was the day of small things in some respects, it was far different in other views of it. The number of medical students was small; but these students received important instruction, such as had not been enjoyed previously in any part of New England, and to a very limited extent only in any part of our country. If the means of instruction, and the time devoted to it, were also small, they were faithfully used. The value of instructions, which could be furnished by a Medical School, especially in the demonstrative branches of medical science, became known and duly estimated. A desire was created for more full instruction; but that desire could not be gratified at once.

In 1783, and for ten years afterwards, the country was very poor; and the labors of the medical professors, especially the time and labor of the professor of Anatomy, were very inadequately compensated. All honor is due to these pioneers, who laid the foundation of this School, in a new country, destitute of the many aids to be found among us in the present state of affairs.

In contrast to these small beginnings, the Committee will describe briefly the present state of the School. Instead of three professors, it now has seven. These give instruction

in the following branches of science connected with Medicine and Surgery, viz. in Anatomy and Physiology, in Chemistry, in Materia Medica, in Pathological Anatomy, in Medical Jurisprudence, in the theory and practice of Obstetrics, in the theory and practice of Surgery, and in the theory and practice of Medicine; with the addition of Clinical instruction in the two last-named branches at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

The lecture-term is now four months in duration. The lectures are delivered in Boston, in the building lately erected in Grove-street, and known by the name of the Massachusetts Medical College. This building contains lecture-rooms of adequate size, a chemical laboratory, a room for pursuing the study of Practical Anatomy, and a large Anatomical Museum. Each professor procures, at his own expense, whatever he believes to be conducive to the instruction of the pupils.

In addition to the advantages thus afforded, the pupils are allowed free access to the Massachusetts General Hospital, where they have an opportunity to qualify themselves for the actual duties of their profession. There they witness all the great surgical operations, and see the whole treatment of both surgical and medical cases fully and systematically conducted.

The Committee believe it is only justice to say, that the advantages afforded at this School, and the character of its present teachers, are such as to place it in the front rank of similar institutions in this country. Yet the number of its pupils, and the emoluments received by the professors, are both much below those of several Schools in the Middle and Western States. The principal compensation is derived from the pupils, and must vary with their number.

New England furnishes a sufficient number of medical students annually to give an abundant support to an institution like this. But there are several other Schools in New England, which are very respectable, though not possessed of advantages equal to those enjoyed here. These Schools are situated in towns or cities much smaller than our metropolis, and the expense of living in such places is much less than in Boston. With the many students who are deficient in property, this circumstance has great weight; and especially among those students who live at a distance from this place, and near any of the other Schools. From these causes, the number of pupils in this School will never equal that in some other parts of the country.

In regard to the pupils of this School, it deserves to be noted, that a large portion of them come to their professional studies under greater advantages, from previous education, than the pupils of most of the Medical Schools in the United States. To this circumstance, probably, it may be attributed that an unusually large proportion of the graduates of the Medical School of this University have become professors in other Medical Schools.

During the academical year 1848-9, the Medical Lectures were delivered as usual, commencing on the first Monday in November, and continuing seventeen weeks. The lectures were omitted four days in the week of the public Thanksgiving, on Christmas-day, and on the first Wednesday in January, commonly called Election-day. The lectures, examinations, and other exercises, occupying from an hour to an hour and a half each, by the several professors, were in number as follows: —



By WALTER CHANNING, M.D. Professor of Obstetrics and Medical Jurisprudence . . . . .	72
By JACOB BIGELOW, M.D. Professor of Materia Medica and Lecturer on Clinical Medicine . . . . .	79
By GEORGE HAYWARD, M.D. Professor of Surgery . . . . .	64
By JOHN W. WEBSTER, M.D. Erving Professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy . . . . .	62
By JOHN WARE, M.D. Hersey Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine . . . . .	62
By JOHN B. S. JACKSON, M.D. Professor of Pathological Anatomy . . . . .	17
By OLIVER W. HOLMES, M.D. Parkman Professor of Anatomy and Physiology . . . . .	92
Total number of lectures . . . . .	448

The number of pupils in attendance on the lectures in 1848-9 was one hundred and twenty-six.

At the close of the lectures, Dr. HAYWARD resigned the office of Professor of Surgery; and Dr. HENRY J. BIGELOW was subsequently appointed as his successor.

The Committee were charged with the examination of the Anatomical Museum in the Massachusetts Medical College. To this examination they gave particular attention; and they are very happy to report, that they found this valuable collection in perfect order. The specimens have been systematically arranged by the Curator in the ample room where they are now placed, and the Committee cannot refrain from commending the scientific beauty of this arrangement.

During the last year, some valuable additions have been made to this Museum; and the day may not be far distant when its floor and its walls will be insufficient for the articles which will be gathered to it.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES JACKSON, J. C. WARREN, A. A. GOULD, R. W. HOOPER,	} Committee.
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*Boston, Jan. 3, 1850.*





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